

Agri-News



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Press Release

January 1 Sheep Inventory

Iowa: All sheep and lambs inventory at 245,000 head is down 5,000 head from last year. Total breeding stock at 175,000 head decreased by three percent from a year ago. Compared to last year, market sheep and lambs remained at 70,000 head, while the lamb crop decreased two percent to 215,000 head.

United States: All sheep and lamb inventory in the United States on January 1, 2005, totaled 6.14 million head, up slightly from 2004, but 3 percent below two years ago. The inventory has leveled off and is showing a slight increase for the first time since 1990.

Breeding sheep inventory increased to 4.53 million head on January 1, 2005, up 1 percent from 4.50 million head on January 1, 2004. Ewes one year old and older, at 3.57 million head, were 1 percent below last year.

Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 2005, totaled

1.60 million head, down slightly from January 1, 2004. Market lambs comprised 95 percent of the total marketings. Twenty-six percent were lambs under 65 pounds, 13 percent were 65 - 84 pounds, 24 percent were 85 - 105 pounds, 32 percent were over 105 pounds, and 5 percent were market sheep.

The 2004 lamb crop of 4.10 million head, a record low, was down 1 percent from 2003. The 2004 lambing rate was 113 lambs per 100 ewes one year old and older on January 1, 2004, up 3 percent from 2003.

Shorn wool production in the United States during 2004 was 37.6 million pounds, down 2 percent from 2003. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 5.07 million head, down slightly from 2003. The average price paid for wool sold in 2004 was \$0.80 per pound for a total value of \$29.9 million dollars, up 6 percent from \$28.1 million dollars in 2003.

**All Sheep and Lambs: Number by Class,
Iowa and United States, January 1, 2004-2005**

Class	Iowa			United States		
	2004	2005	2005 as % of 2004	2004	2005	2005 as % of 2004
	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>Percent</i>
All Sheep and Lambs	250	245	98	6,105.0	6,135.0	100
Total Breeding Sheep	180	175	97	4,499.0	4,533.0	101
Ewes	147	142	97	3,609.5	3,572.5	99
Rams	7	7	100	188.0	190.0	101
Replacement Lambs	26	26	100	701.5	770.5	110
Total Market	70	70	100	1,606.0	1,602.0	100
	2003	2004	2004 as % of 2003	2003	2004	2004 as % of 2003
Lamb Crop	220	215	98	4,140.0	4,096.0	99